

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1897.

THIS PAPER RECEIVES THE COMBINED TELEGRAPHIC NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN ASSOCIATED PRESS, THE UNITED PRESS, THE WESTERN ASSOCIATED PRESS, THE NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATED PRESS, AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

NOT IN THE HANDS OF FRIENDS.

Congress seems minded to provide for the appointment by President McKinley of a commission, or envoys, to inaugurate an international bimetallic conference, or to attend any that any other nation may call.

The Republicans, after discrediting bimetallism by all the arts in their power, now talk about "carrying out the pledge" of their platform! Under such circumstances, we may well doubt if any protestations of friendship on their part will avail at home or abroad. Any enemy of silver who attends any such conference will be able to confound all of the arguments of the Republican members from documents issued by that party last year. In short, the Republicans have furnished the enemy with all the ammunition that they want, and it is now rather late in the day to be treating with them for terms.

The pending proposition commits the whole subject to President McKinley; and it is more than likely that he will appoint a committee of conferees or envoys, who will draw their pay with great regularity, but will be able to render no real public service. With a proper commission, we can very well see how the cause of bimetallism might be promoted just now. Those who undertook to do this would, however, have to tell our European friends that the American people were induced to vote as they did vote last fall by the promise held out to them that the election of McKinley would "restore confidence" and give "life" to business.

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"That this theory is most important and practical is realized when the vitality of the typhus bacillus, as discovered by Koch, Eberth, and Klebs, is given consideration. The typhus bacillus is known to exist largely in well and spring waters, and the fact that these are frequently recognized by authorities on hygiene. Consequently, the important discovery is greatest, by far, and greatest praise of Professor Pfeiffer and Dr. Kolle, whose untiring efforts of experiment with these bacilli of such infinitesimal organisms will prove in the future the means of preserving numberless lives from untimely demise, particularly as man is prone to attack from these bacilli during the best years of his development—i. e., from the age of 20 to 25 years. The inoculations of typhus antitoxin can be easily and quickly effected, and, I hope, will prove of great value and benefit, especially in times of epidemic, when the needs for a prompt and efficacious life-saving remedy are most urgent.

"Professor Pfeiffer and Dr. Kolle will very shortly publish the entire fruits of their experiments for the benefit of the medical fraternity in Europe and America."

A few days ago a West Virginia temporary suggested that Virginia would better adopt the plan of the former State in the matter of framing a new constitution. The West Virginia plan provides for a joint legislative commission to draft such an instrument. The commission has been announced, and is said to be very unsatisfactory to the conservative element of both political parties. The best equipped men for the workmen whom every one expected would be appointed—"turned down."

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A cable dispatch says that the Powers have agreed to entrust to Italy the work of pacifying Crete. It is to be hoped that Italy will not have the same experience in pacifying Crete she had in pacifying Abyssinia.

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It appears that the cat will have to go, as it is now held that it conveys diphtheritic contagion. But won't it come back?

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But we by no means despair. As we have said, we believe that there is too much of skill, vigor, hopefulness, and patriotism in this country of ours to be suppressed, even by McKinley Republicanism and Hanna statesmanship. The patient, however, is in a declining state of health, and, though the attending physician is full of brag, we doubt the potency of his system of medicine. Yet we have called him in, and must give

him a fair trial, nauseating as are some of his doses.

Yes; we'll give him an honest trial; but we can't consent to die under the treatment, when another system of medicine might cure us. Therefore, he must effect a cure within a reasonable time, or else give way to somebody who will do better.

DIVISION OF OPINION.

The claim is made by the advocates of an affirmative vote on the constitutional-convention question that a majority of the Democratic papers in the State have been taking that side of the proposition.

This may be true; but we observe that many of these papers are pressing the question with less vigor now than they were doing some weeks ago. This is particularly true as to Tidewater Virginia, where it has dawned upon some of our brethren that the oystermen have nothing to gain, and might have much to lose, by the ordering of a convention now.

We predict that as the day of election approaches, more and more opposition will appear in all parts of the State. The truth is that we Democrats are at sea as to the policies we would pursue if the convention should be ordered. Many who would otherwise vote "aye" will vote "no," because they fear it would be disastrous for us to assemble a convention without first having determined in a general way what reforms we would advocate.

When we do have a convention the Dispatch would not only like to see it under the control of Democrats, but of the most statesmanlike Democrats, we have in Virginia. In our judgment, the times are not propitious for assembling such a convention; so we advise our friends to wait a while longer.

The discussion now going on will, however, do a great deal of good, and it may be that the State Democratic Convention that is to be held this summer will make a satisfactory deliverance upon the subject. The Staunton convention scrupulously avoided committing our party to the affirmative side of the question to be decided on the 27th of May. Hence, the existing division of opinion among Democrats. And, noticing how we are divided now, we ought not to wish to take upon our hands the responsibility of a convention; no, not until we are of one mind practically as to the salient features in the present Constitution that should be revised and amended.

The more our voters consider these matters, the less, we think, they will be inclined to support the movement in favor of ordering a convention now. At any rate, the Staunton convention gave us full liberty to divide upon this position, and we can agree to disagree, if we cannot agree to agree.

The American Consul at Giaochau, George Sawyer, Esq., reports that in the next number of the Deutsche Medizinische Wochenschrift (edited by Professor Eberberg), Professor R. Pfeiffer, and Dr. W. Kolle, two well-known bacteriologists of Berlin, will publish the results of a number of experiments which they have made with a "typhus antitoxin," prepared by them after much study and trial in their respective laboratories. If the hopes of the two investigators are confirmed, the science of medicine in infectious diseases will have received another most valuable accession in this new discovery. The two experimenters believe that exemption from typhus germs, like immunity from cholera germs and other contagious diseases of like character, may be traced back to the existence in the blood of antityphoid substances, and from this standpoint the process of the Spanish authorities in dealing with American prisoners has taken place between General Lee and the State Department, and that that correspondence is likely to precipitate a crisis on the Cuban question. It does not follow, however, that there is ground for the presumption, advanced by some of the Washington correspondents, that General Lee may have been a little hot-headed. So far he has certainly proved, as Consul-General at Havana, the right man in the right place. He has been diplomatic, where diplomacy met the requirements of the situation, without involving a compromise of the dignity of the nation he represents; but has never hesitated to be bold and outspoken when such a course was necessary to maintain the prestige of his government.

CHECKING EMBEZZLEMENT.

Governor Wolcott, of Massachusetts, in his recent message to the Legislature of that State, took up the question of embezzlement. The latter argues that such a law would have a great restraining force, seeing that the public or private trustee or fiduciary could not venture into the speculative market without knowing the fact to other persons, and the very fact of his appearance in the market would proclaim his lawlessness to the brokers and agents, through whom he must deal.

Mr. Sawyer adds:

"That this theory is most important and practical is realized when the vitality of the typhus bacillus, as discovered by Koch, Eberth, and Klebs, is given consideration. The typhus bacillus is known to exist largely in well and spring waters, and the fact that these are frequently recognized by authorities on hygiene. Consequently, the important discovery is greatest, by far, and greatest praise of Professor Pfeiffer and Dr. Kolle, whose untiring efforts of experiment with these bacilli of such infinitesimal organisms will prove in the future the means of preserving numberless lives from untimely demise, particularly as man is prone to attack from these bacilli during the best years of his development—i. e., from the age of 20 to 25 years. The inoculations of typhus antitoxin can be easily and quickly effected, and, I hope, will prove of great value and benefit, especially in times of epidemic, when the needs for a prompt and efficacious life-saving remedy are most urgent.

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LEE'S POSITION IN CUBA.

The overshadowing question at Washington yesterday was, Has General Fitzhugh Lee resigned the consul-generalship at Havana? The New York Herald's Havana correspondent asserted positively, under date of February 23d, that he had, explaining that he took the step because the State Department refused to grant his request that he be authorized to demand the release of citizens of the United States confined in Cuban prisons under the same illegal conditions as was the ill-fated Ruiz. The same correspondent also iterated his declarations that General Lee asked that warships be sent to Havana, to enable him to enforce protection of American citizens in their rights in Cuba, and said he was confident that he could secure a copy of the telegram embodying that request. Moreover, it was given out in Washington that, while General Lee's resignation had not been received there, it was believed in circles that ought to be posted that it had been tendered, and was in the mail; and the Herald's Washington correspondent produced what seemed pretty strong circumstantial evidence to sustain its Havana correspondent throughout.

On the other hand, however, as we saw yesterday morning, the Herald's war-story was denied upon what was said to be no less authority than that of General Lee himself. Lee is also said to have denied emphatically that he has resided in Cuba.

These denials ought to dispose effectively of both reports; and, if they are authentic, do dispose of them. As to the mere questions whether General Lee tendered his resignation, and whether he asked for a naval force, there will then be nothing more to be said. But, none the less, the matter has revived acute interest in the Cuban question that will not abate until the public has received a good deal more light. Indeed, it has revived interest in the question, that may increase with time.

And for this reason: It has not been denied that General Lee has asked permission to make preemptory demands upon the Spanish authorities in the cases of citizens of the United States imprisoned on the island; and it appears to be an open secret that Secretary Olney and the American Minister at Madrid have been in the last few days exchanging telegrams regarding these prisoners. The presumption in the public mind, therefore, is that, after all, there must be behind the resignation and warship smoke, fire, and a good deal of it. In other words, the presumption is that some correspondence respecting the slow process of the Spanish authorities in dealing with American prisoners has taken place between General Lee and the State Department, and that that correspondence is likely to precipitate a crisis on the Cuban question. It does not follow, however, that there is ground for the presumption, advanced by some of the Washington correspondents, that General Lee may have been a little hot-headed. So far he has certainly proved, as Consul-General at Havana, the right man in the right place. He has been diplomatic, where diplomacy met the requirements of the situation, without involving a compromise of the dignity of the nation he represents; but has never hesitated to be bold and outspoken when such a course was necessary to maintain the prestige of his government.

The Young Men's Christian Association of Virginia assembles in Tabby-Street Presbyterian church, Petersburg, in its twenty-first annual convention this evening at 8 o'clock.

The account of the great interest taken in this meeting by the State secretary, the secretaries of the various associations, on account of their many labors in connection with it and the ready response from thousands of members all over the State, on account of the great growth in membership and favor which has been the association's during the past year, this convention promises to be one of the most enthusiastic ever held in the history of this great work. And these incentives are linked with a very attractive programme.

The session this evening will really be an assembly meeting, the Nominating Committee will be appointed, and there will be prayer service, and those of the delegates who are present will have a chance to meet each other and indulge in handshaking.

The delegation from Richmond will be large and representative. For several days past Secretary McKee has been steeped in work, arranging for his association's part in the great gathering, and he has striven hard to make his embassy a representative one. A good sprinkling of the Executive Board will be present and its president, secretary, and treasurer will take part in the exercises.

Rev. C. L. Schofield, whose name is coupled with the exercises so prominently, and whose magnetism has drawn to him youth all over the land, will be in Richmond to-day, and this evening will conduct the prayer-meeting service at the First Baptist church.

The State secretary has heard from many of the associations throughout Virginia, and the delegation will reach road, reserving vendor's fees for \$6,000, if not more. The Roanoke Railroad Association will send 15 delegates. Lynchburg 15. Williamsburg 12. Radford 10. Bluffton Railroad Association 6. Norfolk 7, while Richmond College will more than likely send 20.

The exercises of the convention will continue with morning, afternoon, and evening sessions until the closing, on Sunday evening. The detailed programme was printed in Sunday's Dispatch.

PROPERTY TRANSFER.

Richmond: Thomas P. Henshaw and others transferred to J. Junius Royster, in trust, 69-1/2 feet on north side, Main street, 69-1/2 feet on south side, Twelfth, 33-63.

Henrico: Richard G. Hatchett to George E. Anderson, Jr., 44 feet on east side Mosby street between Carrington and O, \$800.

W. T. Holloway and wife to Emma V. wife of William E. Hancock, 22 feet on east side Rowland street between Main and Cary, \$366.

Bette W. and J. C. Smith and others to George E. Anderson, Jr., 48 feet on east side Mechanicsville turnpike between Carrington and O streets, \$1,100.

Virginia Fire and Marine Insurance Company to Prison Association of Virginia, 1/4 of parcels of land near Hungry road, reserving vendor's fee for \$600, \$367.57.

E. M. Parsons to Martha Mosby, 5 acres, \$25.

Entertain Their Friends.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Miles, of No. 228 east Marshall street, entertained a party of friends most delightfully on Monday evening last in honor of their son, Mr. W. H. Neal, of Washington. D. C. Games were indulged in, after which refreshments were daintily served. Among those who bear testimony to the cordial hospitality of the host and hostess may be mentioned: Mr. and Mrs. Rowland Hill, Misses Bette Elliott, Eliza Jackson, Anna Green, Anna Blane, El